Cambria Fire Hook and Ladder Company Building Cambria City Neighborhood 624 Broad Street Johnstown Cambria County Pennsylvania

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PHOTOGRAPHS WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Cambria Fire Hook and Ladder Company Building

HABS No. PA-5739

Location: 624 Broad Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

<u>Description</u>: No. 624 Broad Street faces southeast. It occupies a corner lot, with a park to one side and a residential building to the rear. The structure is rectangular in shape, 30' x 59', with brick bearing walls and a hip roof of asphalt shingles. A four-story tower, 14' x 14', is incorporated into the northeast corner. The foundation is constructed of cut stone. The interior of this building has been extensively remodeled in recent years. The original fire house doors have been removed and replaced by large picture windows.

History: The Cambria Fire Hook & Ladder Company Building was constructed between 1891 and 1895. The fire company was organized in October 1887 by German residents of Cambria City. Twenty volunteer members served in the original company, using twelve ladders, six hooks, two axes, and fifty feet of rope. In 1910, this fire station was one of twelve in Johnstown and one of only two volunteer companies. By 1913, the company had eighty-five members, a hosecart, 500 feet of hose and two horses. For many years the fire company and the station were known as Fire Station Number 2, 16th Ward Fire Hall. The fire station closed sometime between 1949 and 1975.

Sources:

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

"Cambria County Historic Sites Survey, Johnstown Inventory," Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1981.

Johnstown City Directory, 1909-10.

"Volunteer [Fire Company] Interest Ran High at Time of Flood," Johnstown <u>Tribune-Democrat</u>, August 22, 1953.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.